

REMARKS

I. Introduction

With the cancellation herein without prejudice of claim 12, claims 13 to 22 are pending in the present application. In view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks, it is respectfully submitted that all of the presently pending claims are allowable, and reconsideration is respectfully requested.

II. Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants note with appreciation the indication of allowable subject matter included in claims 16, 19, and 20. In this regard, the Examiner will note that each of claims 16 and 19 has been written in independent form. As such, it is respectfully submitted that claims 16 and 19, as well as all claims that depend therefrom, are in condition for immediate allowance.

III. Allowed Claim 22

Applicants note with appreciation the indication that claim 22 is allowed.

IV. Claim Rejections

Regarding the rejections raised under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103, in light of the foregoing amendments, it is respectfully submitted that all of these rejections are moot, and withdrawal of these rejections is respectfully requested.

V. Conclusion

It is therefore respectfully submitted that all of the presently pending claims are allowable. All issues raised by the Examiner having been addressed, an early and favorable action on the merits is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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